

# Romania

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**COUNTRY:**  
Romania

**USAID FUNDING PERIOD:**  
March 2001-March 2002

**PROJECT:**  
Baylor International Pediatric Aids Initiative (BIPAI)

**USAID AMOUNT:**  
\$125,000

**IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATION:**  
Texas Children's Hospital of the Baylor College of Medicine via World Learning

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## PURPOSE

The purpose of this grant is to enable Baylor College to partner with Asociatia Speranta, a Romanian non-governmental organization, to bring state-of-the-art comprehensive care and treatment to HIV-infected children. The model program will establish the Centrul de Copii Romano-American (Romanian American Children's Center) and build capacity both in Romania and within the United States for HIV care, treatment, education, and clinical research. Romanian, Eastern European, and American health professionals will train side-by-side in the latest HIV management and clinical research techniques. The Center will eventually enable Romanian staff to outreach to other institutions for purposes of enhancing care and services for children across Romania.

## KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- In September 1999, Baylor established an international core laboratory in Bucharest at the Stefan S. Nicolau Institute of Virology. This laboratory provides state-of-the-art testing for diagnosis and monitoring of pediatric HIV infection.
- The Romanian-American Children's Center opened on April 6, 2001, after extensive renovation of a building donated by the Constanta Municipal Hospital.
- All existing and new center staff have received basic training in HIV care and treatment using an adaptation of Baylor's comprehensive HIV/AIDS nursing curriculum.

- 6 Romanian physicians have received short-term HIV/AIDS training in the United States at Baylor College.
- 10 United States senior pediatric residents have completed short-term HIV/AIDS training experiences in Romania.
- Oral health of HIV-infected children in Constanta has improved dramatically.
- Demographic, medical, and social information on 762 HIV-infected children in Constanta has been collected into a database that can track specific indicators.
- A study of oral supplementation with vitamin A for prevention of HIV disease progression began in 2000.

## PRIORITY ACTIVITIES, 2001-2002

- Community outreach and education involving mobile units continuing, based upon a needs assessment conducted in June 2001;
- Clinical research with vitamin A supplementation finalized;
- The HIV program will be refined to ensure that comprehensive services reach outlying communities and high-risk children and their families; and
- Treatment and care for HIV-positive children will continue to improve.

## PROJECT MATERIALS AND TOOLS

- Output and outcome indicators;

- Pediatric HIV/AIDS database;
- Comprehensive HIV/AIDS nursing education curriculum;
- Training materials/guidelines for health professional education in epidemiology of HIV in Romania, the pathopsychology of HIV infection, principles of antiretroviral therapy, nutritional needs of HIV-infected children, prevention of perinatal transmission of HIV, and standard precautions for the prevention of blood-borne HIV transmission;
- Methodologies for needs assessments, community outreach, and subsequent education tactics;
- Preliminary clinical research and study results on vitamin A trials and the oral health program; and
- Refer to Website [www.bayloraids.org/romania](http://www.bayloraids.org/romania) for updates.

#### TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The project can provide expertise for other orphans and vulnerable children projects in the following areas:

- State-of-the-art care and treatment of HIV-positive children;

- Monitoring, evaluation, and creation of a database;
- Partnership exchanges and training of competent professional work staff;
- Networking and leveraging resources of local, governmental, nongovernmental, and donor organizations;
- Linking care, prevention, and community mobilization; and
- Establishing the necessary infrastructure, expertise, and experience for HIV clinical research in Romania, and enhancing the practices of health care professionals from Romania and Eastern Europe through education and training.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

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**COUNTRY:**  
Romania

**USAID FUNDING PERIOD:**  
October 1998-September 2002

**PROJECT:**  
Child Welfare in Romania Project

**USAID AMOUNT:**  
\$1,063,000 Approximately 12 percent of USAID funds (\$130,000) have been set aside to directly provide care and support services to HIV/AIDS children and their families.

**IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATION:**  
Holt International Children's Services

#### PURPOSE

Holt International works within the judets (counties) of Iasi and Constanta to design, implement, manage, and evaluate a fully integrated system of children's services that leverages existing county resources. Case management is used in working with children at-risk and in need of protection. Case managers are trained by Holt to collaborate with caretakers that have children who are HIV-positive and help them locate and use appropriate counseling and social services, in addition to finding temporary economic support consisting of food, clothes, shoes, vitamins, medicine, and school sup-

plies. Case managers also target HIV-positive children who have been abandoned in medical yards or placed in institutions and provide them with therapeutic foster care to address their special needs. Through these structures, the project builds local capacity to prevent and mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS. Specific objectives include:

- Strengthening the capacity of government and county organizations to lead and sustain effective responses to reduce the institutionalization of children through the provision of: crisis intervention

services for at-risk families and children, pregnancy counseling, community-based services to families at-risk, domestic adoption and foster care services, and services to HIV-positive children and their families;

- Developing a model of services for HIV-positive children and families that can be replicated, including creation of HIV/AIDS care protocols, case management guidelines, and pregnancy counseling; and
- Advocating policy change at national, district, and local levels.

#### **KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS (IN PAST FOUR MONTHS)**

- 12 HIV-positive children have been placed into long-term foster care;
- 33 new HIV-positive children and their families have been served;
- 63 HIV-positive children and their families have received counseling, social services, clothing, food donations, and assistance through the reintegration program;
- 40 HIV-positive children are currently being served through special services provided by four social workers trained through Holt; and
- Formal guidelines have been created and are being pre-tested with young mothers, social assistants who provide pregnancy counseling services, and professionals who work with HIV/AIDS-affected children and their families.

#### **PRIORITY ACTIVITIES, 2001–2002**

- Finalization of guidelines for young mothers, social assistants providing pregnancy counseling services, and professionals working with HIV/AIDS-affected children and their families;

- Further development of the HIV program to insure that comprehensive services reach outlying communities and high-risk children and their families; and
- Further development of therapeutic foster care for HIV-positive children.

#### **PROJECT MATERIALS AND TOOLS**

- Output and outcome indicators; and
- Draft guidelines for young mothers, social assistants who provide pregnancy counseling services, and professionals who work with HIV/AIDS-affected children and their families.

#### **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

The project can provide expertise for other orphans and vulnerable children projects in the following areas:

- Guideline creation, monitoring and evaluation;
- Mentoring and training competent social work staff;
- Networking with local and governmental authorities;
- Linking care and prevention; and
- Providing therapeutic services for HIV-positive children.

#### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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